

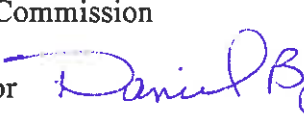


NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Grass Valley • Nevada City • Nevada County • Truckee

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the March 20, 2013 Meeting

DATE: March 12, 2013

1. NORTH STATE TRANSPORTATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY

The purpose of the North State Transportation for Economic Development Study is to build a case for ongoing transportation investment in the 16 County North State Super Region. The Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency is leading the work effort. By aligning transportation planning with economic development efforts, the North State can support other efforts to grow the area's economy. The study will highlight regional transportation improvements with the highest economic benefit and will show relationships between transportation infrastructure investment and North State economic activity. Recently draft reports of the "Transportation and Economic Landscapes" were completed by the consultant team.

The Transportation Landscape report includes:

- Discussion of planned transportation system enhancements.
- Initial identification of projects to be included in strategy testing.
- Overview of current and future transportation system levels of service.
- Discussion of commodity productions and flows.

The Economic Landscape report includes:

- Summary of North State demographics.
- Profile of the North State economy.
- Influence of regional markets.
- Discussion of economic initiatives and economic development targets.
- Identification of transportation needs related target activities.

The study is scheduled to be completed by May 1st.

2. UPDATE OF THE NCTC WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY TRAFFIC MODEL

Traffic models are based on the trip “generating” and “attracting” characteristics of the various land uses within the modeled area. In preparing files for the Western Nevada County Traffic Model, there was a lack of data related to nonresidential land uses outside the City of Grass Valley. NCTC staff compiled the needed information and provided it to the consultant team. Now that the data set is complete, the existing land-use information will be used to develop and calibrate a “base” traffic model. Next, an assumed future year land-use scenario will be developed utilizing input from Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Nevada County staff and stakeholders. The traffic outputs from the future model will be compared with the base year model to determine where transportation improvement projects will be needed. A Project Advisory Committee meeting will be held on March 21st to review existing land-use data and provide input regarding the development of the future year land-use scenario. The project is scheduled for completion by June 30th.

3. BICYCLE MASTER PLAN (BMP) UPDATE

Staff from Fehr and Peers and NCTC conducted a public workshop in Nevada City at the City Hall on February 28th. Approximately thirty people attended the workshop and provided input on desired bicycle improvements in areas of western Nevada County. The public workshop scheduled for Tuesday, February 19th at the Grass Valley City Hall was canceled due to unsafe travel conditions related to heavy afternoon snowfall. The Grass Valley workshop was rescheduled and held on Tuesday, March 5th and attended by approximately twenty individuals.

Based on the input received from individuals, local community groups, and the jurisdictions, the consultant will evaluate the feasibility of suggested revisions to existing plans, and identify new projects to be considered for inclusion in the draft BMP. This evaluation will take into consideration factors such as safety, availability of right-of-way, connectivity, barriers, multi-modal linkages, and other applicable criteria. The Draft BMP is scheduled to be completed in April and presented at the May 15th NCTC meeting.

4. EASTERN NEVADA COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (ENCTDP) UPDATE

Staff from LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. has conducted public outreach activities in the Town of Truckee and completed an analysis of the existing conditions for the current transit and paratransit service levels. The consultant will now begin to evaluate various service alternatives based on their analysis of transit needs and public input, and the ability to implement them, as appropriate, based on the level of demand and funding available. Once the evaluation of the service alternatives is complete, the consultant will develop the financial, capital, and management alternatives. The Draft ENCTDP will be finalized in April and is scheduled to be presented to the Truckee Town Council in May.

5. FY 2012/13 CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

On February 26th, NCTC staff received notification from Caltrans that the revised estimated apportionments for Nevada County are approximately \$135,000 less than the initial estimates and have asked NCTC to revise the FY 2012/13 program to reflect the lower amount. NCTC staff will be working with Caltrans and the NCTC Technical Advisory Committee to determine the best way to address the revised estimate and reduce the potential impacts to the FY 2012/13 program.

6. BAY TO BASIN STUDY

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) was awarded a Caltrans Partnership Planning Grant in the amount of \$240,000 to conduct the Bay to Tahoe Basin Recreation and Tourism Rural Roadway Impact Study. An interview panel comprised of representatives from EDCTC, NCTC, the Tahoe Transportation District, and the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce conducted two interviews on January 23rd. Wood Rodgers and Fehr and Peers were the two firms interviewed. On February 7th, Wood Rodgers was awarded the contract by EDCTC based on the review of the proposals and the scoring and ranking of the interviews.

NCTC is a partner in this study and is working collaboratively with the involved agencies. This study will identify the impacts of regional tourism travel on Interstate 80, US 50, and State Routes 20, 49, 88, 89, and 267 within El Dorado, Placer, Amador, and Nevada Counties. The study will provide the data and analysis necessary to incorporate the impact of tourism travel on the study corridors into rural transportation planning, policy, management, maintenance, and funding decisions, including the development of Regional Transportation Plans and Caltrans' Corridor Reports.

The Project Advisory Committee will be meeting in April 2013 to officially kick-off the project. The project is scheduled to be completed by February 2014. The schedule for the project is provided below.

ACTIVITIES	DATE
Project Kick-off Meeting	April 2013
Field Review and GIS Mapping	April-May 2013
Document and Data Review	May-July 2013
Traffic Origin Destination, User Survey, and Economic Data Collection	May-July 2013
Tourism Travel Impacts Analysis	August-November 2013
Cost Estimates	November-December 2013
Funding Strategy	November 2013
Prepare Draft Report	December 2013-January 2014
Prepare Final Report	January –February 2014

7. NCTC COMPENSATION SURVEY

Consistent with past practice, a survey of six other Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) is being conducted to assist NCTC in determining the appropriate level of compensation for staff. The survey also includes a review of salary and benefit information for comparable positions with Nevada County, Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Truckee. Data has been received from all of the agencies and a detailed report will be provided at NCTC's May 15th meeting.